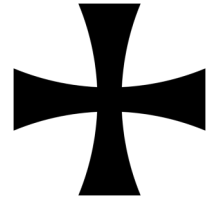




The Hunter's Eye



"There, do you see it?"

He would ask me that question many times over the years. Usually my answer was "No," and only after much searching would my eyes settle on what he had seen so easily.

My grandfather had a "Hunter's Eye," acquired through a lifetime in the woods, among the mountains, and upon the water pursuing prey, including whitetails, elk, bear, turkeys, ducks, geese, rabbits, squirrels, and pheasant. Through those years of experience he gained an ability to see animals where many people could not. Even after suffering from eye diseases like glaucoma and cataracts, he could spy out game better than most.

Through the prophet Jeremiah (*see right*) God promises to send hunters who will gather His people together. These hunters will mirror Him and His keen Hunter's Eye, a clarity of vision which sees people's sin in making false gods for themselves, but also a clarity of vision which enables Him to seek out these sinners and restore them to right worship of Him.

The Hunter's Eye of God seeks **YOU** out as well. And, you need to be sought, because you have wandered far from Him. His eye sees your false gods. You probably haven't carved for yourself an idol out of wood or stone. But, you have had other idols, whether they are the false gods of money, recreation, laziness, bitterness, anger, or anything else you have allowed to take God's place in your heart.

Don't try to cover up your false gods. You can't hide them from God. Instead, listen to God's Word, which exposes them. See them clearly for what they are, even as God sees them. Confess them. And when you confess them, know that they are forgiven through Jesus Christ, God's Son, who doubly repaid your iniquity and sin through His holy, precious suffering and death.

Through that death, God has made you worthy to be gathered in as one of His own. My hope and prayer for you is that you would not resist Him as he seeks you out with His Hunter's Eye and through those He has sent to gather you in.

Confess your sins, believe, and be gathered into God's people, the Christian Church.

"Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when it shall no longer be said, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,' but 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.' For I will bring them back to their own land that I gave to their fathers.

"Behold, I am sending for many fishers, declares the LORD, and they shall catch them. And afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the clefts of the rocks. For my eyes are on all their ways. They are not hidden from me, nor is their iniquity concealed from my eyes. But first I will doubly repay their iniquity and their sin, because they have polluted my land with the carcasses of their detestable idols, and have filled my inheritance with their abominations."

O LORD, my strength and my stronghold,

my refuge in the day of trouble,
to you shall the nations come
from the ends of the earth and
say:

"Our fathers have inherited nothing but
lies,

worthless things in which there
is no profit.

Can man make for himself gods?
Such are not gods!"

"Therefore, behold, I will make them
know, this once I will make them know
my power and my might, and they shall
know that my name is the LORD."

How does God seek you out with His Hunter's Eye?

Law: The Ten Commandments help us see our sin as God sees it, a transgression of His righteous will for our lives.

Through the Law comes knowledge of sin. (Romans 3:20)

Gospel: We see the saving work of Jesus Christ through His Cross and Passion by the Gospel, and through it we believe in Him unto eternal life.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." (Romans 1:16-17)

Holy Spirit: We don't come into God's people by our own power, but only through the Holy Spirit.

And when he comes, [the Holy Spirit] will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment. (John 16:8)

Church: The Holy Spirit works through God's people. God sends His fishermen and hunters to gather us in (Jeremiah 16:16, Mark 1:17).

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

Word: The means God has given the Church to gather us in is His Word.

Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. (John 5:24)

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